

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0846

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, SHUM, UN

SUBJ: CHILE AT 31ST UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

REFS: (A) STATE 026939; (B) GENEVA 0728; (C) USUN 0164

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FOR FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION. CHILEAN OBSERVER IN HRC HAS STATED GOC FAVORS FORMULA WE FIND SIMILAR TO ONE BASED ON IACHR WHICH U.S. PROPOSED TO WEO'S IN NEW YORK. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON HANDLING IACHR FORMULA WITH CARVAJAL. END SUMMARY

2. FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL NEXT WEEK. HE IS TRAVELING TO NORTHERN CHILE TO JOIN PRESIDENTIAL PARTY TOURING THE AREA AND WILL ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT PINOCHET TO FEBRUARY 8 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BANZER NEAR BOLIVIAN BORDER.

3. MEANWHILE, REF (B) REPORTS CHILEAN OBSERVER AMBASSADOR DIEZ AS STATING CHILEAN GOVERNMENT WOULD PREFER THAT HRC TAKE NOTE THAT OAS SEIZED OF CHILEAN HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION AND, IN VIEW OF REPORT ALREADY ISSUED BY INTERAMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (IACHR), DECIDE TO LEND ITS SUPPORT TO OAS EFFORT RATHER THAN UNDERTAKE A SEPARATE STUDY.

4. THE GOC POSITION DESCRIBED BY AMBASSADOR DIEZ WOULD SEEM
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TO OPEN A POSSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION PERHAPS NOT FULLY CONSIDERED

PREVIOUSLY. REF (C) INDICATES THAT AT THE SECOND INFORMAL MEETING OF HRC WEO'S HELD JANUARY 17, U.S. SUGGESTED FORMULA BASED ON IACHR ROUTE WHICH INTERESTED WEO'S, BUT RAISED DOUBTS THAT IT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO CHILE GIVEN GOC REACTION TO IACHR REPORT. AMBASSADOR DIEZ'S REMARKS INDICATE THIS IS NOT REPEAT NOT THE CASE.

5. PRESUMABLY, GOC PREFERENCE FOR FORMULA BY WHICH HRC WOULD SUPPORT OAS EFFORT IS BASED PRINCIPALLY ON FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS: A) GOC COULD AVOID A NEW HUMAN RIGHTS STUDY; B) GOC COULD GAIN TIME TO MAKE ADDITIONAL CHANGES IN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE BEFORE IACHR REPORT IS CONSIDERED BY THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND C) GOC COULD KEEP THIS MATTER IN HANDS OF LA'S WHO, ALTHOUGH IN SOME CASES CRITICAL, ARE FAR MORE ACCEPTABLE TO GOC THAN SOME WHO MIGHT BE DRAWN INTO A STUDY GROUP UNDER UN AUSPICES.

6. IT OCCURS TO US THAT HIGHLY CRITICAL CHARACTER OF IACHR REPORT COULD GIVE THIS ROUTE SOME APPEAL FOR THOSE IN HRC ANXIOUS TO PILLORY CHILE, THEREBY IMPROVING PROSPECTS FOR MODERATE RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, WE PRESUME THIS CUTS BOTH WAYS SINCE IT COULD ALSO GIVE USSR AND OTHERS OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS FOR HARSHLY CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTION BUILT AROUND CRITICAL IACHR REPORT.

7. MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR AT THIS STAGE WOULD SEEM TO BE WHETHER A MODERATE RESOLUTION GOING THE IACHR ROUTE, NOW SUGGESTED BY AMBASSADOR DIEZ, CAN BE SUCCESSFUL AT GENEVA. THIS IS A MATTER WHICH WE CARE UNABLE TO JUDGE IN SANTIAGO.

8. ACTION: BY EARLY NEXT WEEK, WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE AS TO A) WHETHER INSTRUCTIONS REF (A) FOR DISCUSSION WITH CARVAJAL SHOULD BE MODIFIED TO INCLUDE REFERENCE TO AN IACHR FORMULA OF THE KIND SUGGESTED BY AMBASSADOR DIEZ; AND B) IF NOT, AN APPROPRIATE LINE OF RESPONSE IF FOREIGN MINISTER RAISES IT.
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